

Concert Band News

The winter has been cold here in the nation's capital, but that hasn't slowed down the members of the Concert Band. We have played for music educators in Colorado and Texas, taken part in local performances for various customers and shared the stage of DAR Constitution Hall with some of the world's finest entertainers.

It's always a special treat for the Concert Band to perform for groups consisting of peers from the professional music world, and this past January and February we traveled west to play at two very important conventions. First of all, in January, we flew to Colorado Springs, for the Colorado Music Educators Association annual event. Since this is Colonel Graham's stomping ground we were all anxious to make the best possible impression. As is the custom, we played to a packed house of enthusiastic music educators who were proud of their native son on the podium. In February, we presented a concert at the College Band Directors National Association's annual gathering at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas. This group is comprised of the finest musicians working in higher education around the world. The Concert Band again lived up to its reputation as the one of the finest wind organizations in the world with a magnificent tour-de-force show.

As a part of a 35-year tradition, the Concert Band shares performances with a variety of the world's finest entertainers during the Guest Artist Series at DAR Constitution Hall. This year has proven to be one of the most exciting for us as we run the gamut of musical styles, from opera to country to pop. Hats off to our Guest Artist Series team!

Chamber groups from the Concert Band have also been "out on the street" playing in a variety of venues. Our versatility is showcased in smaller settings through our Brass and Woodwind Quintets and Saxophone Quartet. The Brass Quintet was the featured group at James Madison University's annual Brass Bash. The Quintet played a full recital for a large group of high school, college and professional brass musicians. They also held a two-hour coaching and information session that could have lasted twice as long—the questions and comments from the audience highlighted the day's performance. The Quintet also played two recitals in the Washington area at the National Building Museum and at Harmony Hall.

— SMSgt Lindsey Smith



Brass Biz

The Ceremonial Brass entered the new year with many exciting performances. With the arrival of our government's new administration, the group has had many opportunities to support several events associated with the transition. On January 8, the Ceremonial Brass performed an Air Force farewell review and award ceremony at Andrews Air Force Base in honor of Carol DiBattise, undersecretary of the Air Force. The ceremony was hosted by Secretary of the Air Force F. Whitten Peters and General Michael E. Ryan, Air Force chief of staff.

As January 20 drew near, the Ceremonial Brass participated in several inaugural events. On January 18, the Ceremonial Brass performed a patriotic opening ceremony at an inaugural dinner held in Washington. On January 19, the group performed an Air Force farewell review and award ceremony in honor of Secretary Peters at Andrews Air Force Base. The highlight of all the inaugural events took place on January 20, when the Ceremonial Band performed in the 2001 Inaugural Parade for President George W. Bush. Finally, on the evening after the parade, the group performed honors for President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney at an inaugural ball in Washington.

Future Ceremonial Brass performances will include the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 11 in downtown Washington, D.C., the annual White House Easter Egg Roll on April 16, and the semi-annual White House Garden Tour which will also be in April. Be sure to look for the Brass at these very popular events.

In addition to the busy group schedule, members of the Ceremonial Brass have kept active with personal pursuits. SMSgt John Purcell was featured as guest speaker at the American Musicological



The Ceremonial Band at the 2001 Inaugural Parade

Society conference, where presented a paper on *The Use of Trumpets in the Operas of Alessandro Scarlatti*. MSgt Lisa Launder took part in a brass quintet recital as part of The U.S. Army Band's recital series at Ft. Myer, Virginia on February 6. On February 14, MSgt Tony Kirkland and TSgt Tom Rarick presented master classes and a recital at James Madison University. They performed a program of works for trumpet and percussion duo. MSgt Bob Cheal and TSgts Tara Smith and Josh Lies traveled with the Concert Band at the end of January to perform for the Colorado Music Educators Association in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Finally, during this period, TSgt Chris Martin will attend the Noncommissioned Officer Academy. We wish him the best of luck and look forward to his return.

—TSgt Tara Smith